

REMARKS

Claims 18, 19, 21-27, and 29-32 remain in this application. Claim 20 has been previously canceled. Claim 28 is canceled herein. Claims 18, 21, 24, 25, and 29 have been amended.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because a feature "a toilet ... configured to be coupled to a drain line" in claim 25 is not shown. Claim 25 is amended herein to change "a toilet ... configured to be coupled to a drain line" to -- a toilet ... coupled to a drain line --. Fig. 4 shows a toilet 20 coupled to a drain line 62. Withdrawal of the foregoing objection to claim 25 under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 18 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) because proper antecedent basis for the language "the washing station arranged to be operable in the first and second positions" could not be found in the specification. Claim 18 is amended herein to change "the washing station arranged to be operable in the first and second positions" to -- the washing station being usable by the patient in both the first and second positions --. Support for this amendment is at page 7, lines 27 et seq. Withdrawal of the foregoing objection to claim 18 under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, because implementation of "configured to be coupled to a drain line" is not disclosed. Claim 25 is amended herein to change "a toilet ... configured to be coupled to a drain line" to -- a toilet ... coupled to a drain line --. Fig. 4 shows a toilet 20 coupled to a drain line 62. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection of claims 25-32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, because claims 21 and 22 depend from a canceled claim 20. Claim 21 is amended herein to depend from claim 18, instead of claim 20. Claim 22 depends from claim 21. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, rejection of claims 21 and 22 is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form without narrowing its scope, and is believed to be allowable.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 18, 19, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 877,196 to Hubert ("Hubert") is requested. It is believed that amended independent claim 18, and dependent claims 19 and 21-23, are not anticipated by Hubert at least for the reasons given below.

Regarding claim 18, Hubert does not disclose or suggest "the washing station having a drain line not discharging into the toilet." Hubert does not disclose or suggest "the washing station being usable by the patient in both the first and second positions." Accordingly, at least for these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 18, and dependent claims 19 and 21-23, are not anticipated by Hubert, and hence withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection thereof is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 18, 19, 21-23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 200,480 to Rivera ("Rivera") is requested. It is believed that amended independent claims 18 and 25, and dependent claims 19 and 21-23, are not anticipated by Rivera at least for the reasons given below.

Regarding claim 18, Rivera does not disclose or suggest "the washing station having a drain line not discharging into the toilet." Rivera does not disclose or suggest "a toilet ... having a drain line to drain waste therefrom." Rivera does not disclose or suggest "the washing station being usable by the patient in both the first and second positions."

Regarding claim 25, Rivera does not disclose or suggest "a connector coupling the housing to the floor to move the housing about a pivot axis between a first position configured to extend alongside the room wall and a second position configured to extend alongside the hospital bed." Rivera does not disclose or suggest "a toilet ... having a drain line to drain waste therefrom." Accordingly, at least for these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 18 and 25, and dependent claims 19 and 21-23, are not anticipated by Rivera, and hence withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection thereof is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 18, 21, 22, 25, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 41602 to Campbell ("Campbell") is requested. It is believed that amended independent claims 18 and 25, and dependent claims 21, 22, and 30-32, are not anticipated by Campbell at least for the reasons given below.

Regarding claim 18, Campbell does not disclose or suggest a "washing station having a drain line...." Campbell does not disclose or suggest "a toilet ... having a drain line to drain waste therefrom."

Regarding claim 25, Campbell does not disclose or suggest "a connector coupling the housing to the floor to move the housing about a pivot axis between a first position configured to extend alongside the room wall and a second position configured to extend

alongside the hospital bed.” Campbell does not disclose or suggest “a toilet ... having a drain line to drain waste therefrom.” Accordingly, at least for these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 18 and 25, and dependent claims 21, 22 and 30-32, are not anticipated by Campbell, and hence withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection thereof is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 25, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,447,166 to Gordon (“Gordon”) is requested. It is believed that amended independent claim 25, and dependent claims 29 and 30, are not anticipated by Gordon at least for the reasons given below.

Regarding claim 25, Gordon does not disclose or suggest “a connector coupling the housing to the floor to move the housing about a pivot axis between a first position configured to extend alongside the room wall and a second position configured to extend alongside the hospital bed.” Accordingly, at least for these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 25, and dependent claims 29 and 30, are not anticipated by Gordon, and hence withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection thereof is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 25-27, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 561,026 to Parrish (“Parrish”) is requested. It is believed that amended independent claim 25, and dependent claims 26, 27, 29, and 30, are not anticipated by Parrish at least for the reasons given below.

Regarding claim 25, Parrish does not disclose or suggest “a connector coupling the housing to the floor to move the housing about a pivot axis between a first position configured to extend alongside the room wall and a second position configured to extend alongside the hospital bed.” Parrish does not disclose or suggest “a toilet ... having a drain line to drain waste therefrom.” Accordingly, at least for these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 25, and dependent claims 26, 27, 29, and 30, are not anticipated by Parrish, and hence withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection thereof is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,821,348 to Pauna (“Pauna”) is requested. It is believed that amended independent claim 25, and dependent claims 26-31, are not anticipated by Pauna at least for the reasons given below.

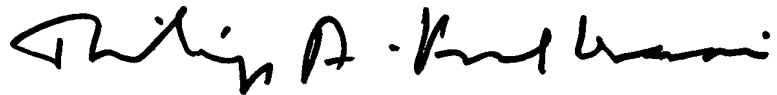
Regarding claim 25, Pauna does not disclose or suggest “a connector coupling the housing to the floor to move the housing about a pivot axis between a first position configured to extend alongside the room wall and a second position configured to extend alongside the hospital

bed.” Accordingly, at least for these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 25, and dependent claims 26-31, are not anticipated by Pauna, and hence withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and supporting remarks, the subject application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview would expedite the allowance of this application, he is requested to contact the undersigned for a prompt resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages and other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435, with reference to file 7175-73311.

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG



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